LIBRARY

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
1 Western Parade,
Southsea.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the Port Sanitary Authority.

Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report of the work of the Port Sanitary Authority of Portsmouth during the year 1945.

The total number of foreign and coastwise ships entering the port last year shows an increase as compared with the previous year.

There were no cases of infectious disease reported in the area during the year.

I desire to express my thanks to the King's Harbour Master and to H.M. Collector of Customs and staff for their cordial co-operation and valuable assistance during the year.

It is again my pleasure to record my appreciation of the excellent service readily and willingly given me by the Port Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Portsmouth Port Sanitary Authority my thanks are due for their unfailing sympathy and support in all matters relating to Port Sanitation throughout the year.

JURISDICTION OF THE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The limits of the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority are as follows:-

"So much of the Port of Portsmouth as lies to the east of a line drawn due south from the most southerly point of the pier of the L. & S.W. Railway Co. at Stokes Bay to a point 50° 45' N. Lat.; to the west of a line drawn due south to the same parallel of latitude from the south-eastern extremity of the common boundary of the Parishes of Havant and Warblington; and to the north of a line drawn due west along the same parallel of latitude from the point at which the line lastly hereinbefore mentioned meets the said parallel to the point secondly hereinbefore mentioned;

Together with the waters of the said Port of Portsmouth within such limits, and the place which may from time to time be appointed for the Customs Boarding Station for such part of the said Port, and the place which may from time to time be appointed for the mooring and anchoring of ships for such part of the Said Port, under any Regulations for the prevention of the spread of diseases issued under the Authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and the place which may from time to time be appointed, with our Consent, for the mooring or anchoring of any floating hospital provided by the said Sanitary Authority; and, for the purpose of any such Regulations as aforesaid, shall also extend to any ship which, in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder, shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or which shall be on its way thither, together with the docks, quays, wharves, rivers, creeks, streams, channels, roads, bays, and harbours within the aforesaid limits."

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE A.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
FOREIGN (Steamers	60	24000	1	19	4	4	0
(Motor							
Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COASTWISE (Steamers	3139	402227	0	263	93	93	0
(Motor							
Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total - Foreign & Coastwise	3199	426227	1	282	97	97	0

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

There was no passenger traffic during the year.

CARGO TRAFFIC. The principal imports were coal, cement, stone, oil and timber.

III. SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY.

The water used in the Docks is supplied by the Portsmouth Water Company. Vessels in dock are supplied from hydrants on the quay from the same source. There is one water boat ("Eclair") in use; it is in good sanitary condition, and periodically inspected.

With regard to the supply of drinking water to ships arriving at and leaving the port, the following precautions are taken before water is supplied:

When the water is turned on it is allow ed to run through the hydrants for a while and then the hose is connected and the water allowed to run through the hose in the same way. When the quantity of water needed has been supplied the hose is disconnected, the water allowed to run through, and the hose replaced in the store, where it is locked up safely. The hydrants are locked and covered up also, and the area in the vicinity of the hydrants and hose pipes is kept scrupulously clean by washing down.

I. <u>AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.</u>

<u>TABLE A.</u>

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected by the Medical Officer of Health	Number Inspected by the Sanitary Inspector	Number reported on as defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels fumigated or having had carried on board
FOREIGN							
(Steamers	60	24000	1	19	4	4	0
(Motor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing							
COASTERS							
(Steamers	319	42727	0	282	23	23	0
(Motor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing							
Total -							
Foreign & Coastwise	319	42727	1	282	27	27	0

II. <u>CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.</u>

There was no passenger traffic during the year.

CARGO TRAFFIC. The principal imports were coal, cement, stone, oil and timber.

III. <u>SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.</u>

The water used in the docks is supplied by the Portsmouth Water Company. Vessels in dock are supplied from hydrants on the quay from the same source. There is one water boat ("Adelaide") in use; it is in good sanitary condition, and periodically inspected.

With regard to the supply of drinking water to ships arriving at and leaving the port, the following precautions are taken before water is supplied:

When the water is ordered on it is allowed to run through the fire hydrants for a while and then the hose is connected and the water allowed to run through the hose in the same way. After the quantity of water needed has been supplied the hose is disconnected, the water allowed to run through, and the hose replaced in the store, where it is blowed up safely. The hydrants are locked and covered up again, and the cocks in the vicinity of the hydrants are then quite in most sanitary condition by reason of running water.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

Declarations of Health, which must be filled in and signed by the Master of every ship arriving from a foreign port are obtained -

(a) in respect of vessels from non-infected ports, by the Customs Officer, who forwards them to the Port Medical Officer.
(b) in respect of vessels from infected ports by the Port Medical Officer. Vessels are visited in dock by the Port Sanitary Inspector as soon as possible after docking.

2. Telegraphic Address.

To avoid delay in notifying inward vessels requiring special attention, the telegraphic address "Portelth", suggested by the Ministry of Health, has been adopted by the Port Sanitary Authority.

3. Mooring Stations.

Under Article 10 of the Port Health Regulations, 1933, the following mooring stations have been established, with the concurrence of the King's Harbour Master and the Commissioners of Customs and Excise; these were subject to variation by the Commander in Chief, owing to war conditions.

(a) OUTER MOORING STATION.

An area about half a mile north-west of Mother of Bank Spit.

(b) INNER MOORING STATION.

The upper reaches of Portsmouth Harbour.

This agreement is subject to the following understandings:-

(1) That the mooring place referred to at (a) above is for ships with cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever or smallpox on board, and that at (b) for all other unhealthy ships not within a standing exemption.

(2) That a standing exemption from detention under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority in respect of any ship which -

(i) has called at a port or seaboard included in the weekly return of infected or suspected ports or seaboards, but reports "all well" during the voyage, or arrives with no sickness on board, unless a written notice to the contrary has been delivered to the Customs Officer by or on behalf of the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority.
(ii) has on board a case of minor infectious disorder, namely, chickenpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, erysipelas, malaria, dysentery, pneumonia, tuberculosis, mumps, or cerebro-spinal fever.

(3) That when necessary the Port Sanitary Authority will convey the Customs Officers to the mooring place referred to as (a) above, free of expense to the Crown.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933.

1. Arrangements for dealing with declarations of health.

Declarations of health, which must be filled in and signed by the master of every ship arriving from a foreign port, are obtained -

(a) In respect of vessels from non-infected ports, by the Customs Officer, who forwards them to the Port Medical Officer.

(b) In respect of vessels from infected ports, by the Port Medical Officer. Vessels are visited in dock by the Port Sanitary Inspector as soon as possible after docking.

2. Telegraphic address.

To avoid delay in notifying inward vessels requiring special attention, the telegraphic address "Portsanit", suggested by the Ministry of Health, has been adopted by the Port Sanitary Authority.

3. Mooring Stations.

Under Article 10 of the Port Health Regulations, 1933, the following mooring stations have been established, with the concurrence of the Kingin Harbour Master and the Coastguard, of Gurnos and Bristol; these were subject to variation by the Commander in Chief, owing to war conditions.

(a) OUTER MOORING STATION.

An area about half a mile north-west of Rotten or Sunk Spit.

(b) INNER MOORING STATION.

The upper reaches of Portsmouth Harbour.

This agreement is subject to the following understandings.

(1) That the mooring place referred to at (a) above is for ships with cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever or smallpox on board, and that at (b) for all other infected ships not within a specific exception.

(2) That a standing exception from detention under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority in respect of any ship which -

(i) has sailed at a port or seaboard included in the weekly return of infected or suspected ports or seaboards, but remains "All well" during the voyage, or arrives with no sickness on board, unless a written notice to the contrary has been delivered to the Customs Officer by or on behalf of the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority.

(ii) has on board a case of minor infectious disease, namely, chickenpox, measles, mumps, scarlet fever, diphtheria, erysipelas, malaria, dysentery, pneumonia, tuberculosis, tonsilitis, cerebro-spinal fever.

(3) That steps be taken by the Port Sanitary Authority, with the Customs Officers to the questions mentioned in at (a) above, from the Master on the arrival.

4. Arrangements for dealing with cases of Infectious Diseases, etc.

Cases of dangerous infectious disease are removed to the smallpox hospital at Elson, or to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital.

All other cases of infectious disease are removed to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital by means of the Corporation Motor Ambulance Service.

Contacts of Infectious Diseases Cases.

(a) Living in the City. If not removed to hospital they are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

(b) Proceeding to an address outside the City. The Medical Officer of Health of the place of destination is advised.

A consulting room and waiting room are available at the docks for medical examination.

Personnel and clothing are disinfected at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Provision can be made for the temporary accommodation of persons who may have to be detained pending further examination.

Arrangements are made at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, Saint Mary's Hospital, for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases among sailors.

TABLE C.

There were no cases of infectious diseases landed from vessels.

TABLE D.

There were no cases of infectious disease occurring upon the voyage but disposed of prior to the vessel's arrival.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

All vessels arriving from abroad are examined periodically by the Port Sanitary Inspector. Rats are caught periodically on the quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the Port, per Table F. A trained rat-catcher is employed.

When necessary rat guards are placed on ropes between ships and the quays. The Port is not approved for the deratisation of ships.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.
(in vessels.)
TABLE E.

Number of Rats	Total
Black	60
Brown	-
Species not recorded	-
Examined	-
Infected with Plague	-

4. Arrangements for dealing with cases of infectious diseases, etc.

Cases of dangerous infectious diseases are removed to the smallpox hospital at Milton, or to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital.

All other cases of infectious diseases are removed to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital by means of the Corporation Motor Ambulance Service.

Contacts of Infectious Disease Cases.

(a) Living in the City. If not removed to hospital they are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

(b) Proceeding to an address outside the City. The Medical Officer of Health of the place of destination is notified.

A convalescent room and washing room are available at the Baths for medical examination.

Personnel and clothing are disinfected at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Provision can be made for the temporary accommodation of persons who may have to be detained pending further examination.

Arrangements are made at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, Saint Mary's Hospital, for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases among seafarers.

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There were no cases of infectious diseases landed from vessels.

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There were no cases of infectious diseases occurring upon the voyage but disposed of prior to the vessel's arrival.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

All vessels arriving from abroad are examined periodically by the Port Sanitary Inspector. Rats are caught periodically on the quays, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the Port, per Table F. A trained rat-catcher is employed.

When necessary rat guards are placed on ropes between ship and the quays. The Port is not approved for the deratisation of ships.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.
(in vessels.)

TABLE F.

Number of Rats	Total
Black	0
Brown	-
Species not recorded	-
Killed	-
Infected with Plague	-

TABLE F.

RATS DESTROYED IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES, WAREHOUSES

Number of Rats	Total
Black	155
Brown	45
Species not recorded	-
Examined	-
Infected with plague	-

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Nationality of Vessel	No. Inspected during year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	240	-	-	81
Other Nations	42	-	-	16

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

The importations of foodstuffs are small in amount, these being chiefly potatoes, flour, sugar, margarine, bacon, butter, and tinned foods. During the year no adverse reports were made by the Veterinary Officer and Food Inspector.

Shell-fish - There is no oyster-laying within the area of the Port Health Authority.

During the year no action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 39).

The number of livestock landed at the docks from the Isle of Wight was 186 (Horses 71, Cattle 50, Sheep 60, Calves 4 and Pigs 1). During the inspections of livestock no clinical evidence of the existence of any contagious and notifiable diseases was found.

I have the honour to be, Mesdames & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A.B. WILLIAMSON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,
City and Port of Portsmouth.

TABLE 2.

RATS DESTROYED IN DOCKS, QUAYS, GRAVEL, ETC. DURING

Number of Rats	Total
Black	155
Brown	45
Species not recorded	-
Examined	-
Infected with plague	-

VI. BUILDINGS OF GENERAL STATUS.

TABLE 1.

Nationality of Vessel	No. Inspected during year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	240	-	-	81
Other Nations	42	-	-	16

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

The importations of foodstuffs are small in amount, these being chiefly potatoes, flour, turnips, mangolds, beans, butter and tinned foods. During the year no adverse reports were made by the Veterinary Officer and Food Inspector.

Shell-fish - There is no oyster-laying within the area of the Port Health Authority.

During the year no action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 39).

The number of livestock landed at the docks from the Isle of Wight was 180 (Horses 7, cattle 50, Sheep 60, Calves 4 and Pigs 1). During the inspections of livestock no clinical evidence of the existence of any contagious and notifiable diseases was found.

I have the honour to be, Madame & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A.E. WILLIAMSON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,
City and Port of Portsmouth.